

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Alaska Division of Agriculture
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NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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As of February 1, 2006

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of February 1, 2006 totaled 106,000 cwt. This was 64 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 114,000 cwt or 64 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2003 level for the February 1 stocks was 71,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for February 1 is 100,800 cwt.

Disappearance since January 1 was 12,000 cwt, the same as last year. The five year average disappearance between January and February is 16,000 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to February 1 totaled 60,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 63,000 cwt. The five year average is 70,800 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purpose and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 188 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2006, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below February 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 50 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of 185 million cwt of potatoes is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 18.1 million cwt so far this season, is down 17 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 96.5 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 4 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 19.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

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ALASKA POTATO STOCKS – FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Year	Stocks				Production	February 1 Stocks as a Percent of Production
	Feb. 1	Jan. 1	Dec. 1	Oct. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----					-- Percent --
2005	106.0	118.0	129.0	145.0	166.0	64%
2004	114.0	126.0	137.0	154.0	177.0	64%
2003	71.0	90.0	110.0	147.0	168.0	42%

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